

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038

"Irradiation in the Production, Processing + Handling of Food"

3816 '99  
TO Jane E. Henney, MD, Commissioner of FDA, 19 P5:22

I strongly believe that all foods treated with irradiation should be clearly labeled with a written statement: "treated by irradiation." This statement should be large, easy to read + placed near the front ~~of~~ panel of of the package or the or the name of the food. Unpackaged food should be labeled by a poster in plain view, adjacent to where the product is for sale. Clear and honest labeling is the only way I can make an informed decision about my food.

I also feel as an American consumer, I have a right to know what my food has been exposed to.

All FDA labels are required to be truthful + NOT misleading - irradiation labels should be no different. Any phrase involving "pasteurization" is misleading because pasteurization is an entirely different

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process than irradiation.

The standard requiring irradiation disclosure on all foods - both the label + the radura symbol - should not expire at all, ever.

The material fact of processing remains, irradiated food has different qualities from food free from irradiation, and that difference must be clearly notated.

Without a label, consumers may be misled into believing food has not been irradiated.

In short, I am very concerned about the possibility of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated foods + demand clear + honest labeling now + in the future.

Sincerely,

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